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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

newsletter

November 1961

No. 38

*We must show the
world what a
free economy can do
...to put unused
capacity to work,
spur new
productivity and
foster higher
economic growth.
President Kennedy.*

SECRETARY NAMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has appointed a 29-member Advisory Committee on Rural Areas Development. This committee will advise the U. S. Department of Agriculture on legislative proposals and other matters connected with rural areas development.

In appointing the committee, Secretary Freeman said:

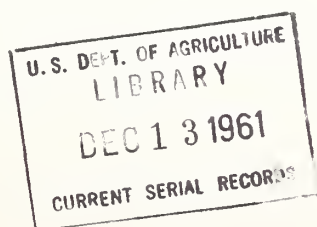
"The success of the rural areas development programs rests uniquely upon private initiative and effort--interested, enthusiastic and informed participation by the general public, both within and without specific rural areas. Priority attention is being given to insure that initiation of rural areas development programs and maximum participation therein shall rest with citizens and groups of citizens and State and local governments and their instrumentalities.

Freeman continued: "To bring the experience and the knowledge of representative national leaders and representatives of such persons and groups to bear on these problems, I am establishing an Advisory Committee on Rural Areas Development.



"Development of long-range programs to help assure prosperity and stability for the farm people, business and other residents of rural areas is a matter of considerable public interest and is of deep concern to the Department of Agriculture.

"Establishment of a firm foundation for permanent prosperity in rural areas to make its appropriate contribution to a more rapid rate of national economic growth, to insure that rural human and natural resources are utilized at maximum feasible efficiency and to establish a stable pattern of adequate family farms are clearly in the public interest," the Secretary said.



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

Clarence J. McCormick of Vincennes, Ind., Under Secretary of Agriculture from July 28, 1950 to Jan. 20, 1953, will serve as chairman of the committee. John A. Baker, Director, Agricultural Credit, will be the official USDA representative, and Dr. A. T. Mace, Director, Office of Rural Areas Development, will be the executive secretary.

Other members of the committee are: Fay Bennett, National Sharecroppers Fund, Inc., New York, N. Y.; Dr. Harry L. Brown, President, George Farm Bureau, Macon, Ga.; Homer L. Brinkley, Executive Vice President, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Washington, D. C.; L. C. Carpenter, Missouri Farmers Association, Columbia, Mo.; A. E. Cascino, Vice President International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, Skokie, Ill.; Dr. Howard Dawson, Executive Secretary Emeritus, Dept. of Rural Education, Natl. Education Assn., Washington, D. C.

Also, John Edelman, Washington Representative, Textile Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, Washington, D. C.; Clyde T. Ellis, General Manager, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Washington, D. C.; Harold Ehnarson, Vice President, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N. M.; Dr. E. P. Evans, President, Prairie View College (Land Grant College for Negroes), Prairie View, Texas; John F. Faulkner, Rancher and Farm Leader, Mena, Ark.; Frank L. Fernbach, Economist, Research Department, AFL-CIO, Washington, D. C.

Also, Nolen J. Fuqua, former president, Nat'l Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Duncan, Okla.; Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, President, Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C.; Miss Elizabeth B. Herring, Executive Secretary, National Council on Agricultural Life & Labor, Washington, D. C.; Robert M. Koch, President, National Limestone Institute, Inc., Washington, D.C.; Dr. Henry McCanna, Executive Director, National Council of Churches of Christ, Town & Country Department, New York, N. Y.; Dr. J. G. Maddox, Professor of Agricultural Economics, North Carolina State College of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

Also, Dr. M. D. Mobley, Executive Secretary, American Vocational Association, Washington, D. C.; E. W. Mueller, Secretary, Rural Work, National Lutheran Council, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Ernest J. Nesius, Dean, College of Agriculture, University of West Virginia, Morgantown, W. Va.; Herschel D. Newsom, Master, The National Grange, Washington, D. C.; Helge Nygren, President, Mor-Gran-Sou, Electric Cooperative, Inc., Flasher, N. D.; Rev. E. W. O'Rourke, Executive Director, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines, Iowa.

Also, James G. Patton, President, Farmers Union, Denver, Colo; Dr. Willa B. Player, President, Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C. (Private Women's College for Negroes); L. A. Potts, Dean, School of Agriculture, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.; and E. T. Savidge, Deputy Manager, Agricultural Commission, American Bankers Association, New York, N. Y.

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF RAD

A new water system and sewer project at Mountain City, Johnson County, Tennessee, was acclaimed by Director Turley Mace of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Areas Development as "an outstanding example of rural areas development." Mace also stressed the fact that local funds, or investments, will be five times that of the Federal agency involved (Areas Re-development Administration).

ARA approved a \$106,300 public facilities loan and grant for the new project, which will result in 300 new permanent jobs immediately with an anticipated 1,500 new jobs in the near future. The system will serve a new industrial park.



Because of its responsibility for helping local groups to develop rural Johnson County, USDA reviewed and had approved the overall economic development program for the county and also had recommended, after review, approval of the water and sewer system project at Mountain City.

"When town and county people work together, as they are at Mountain City, economic development of entire areas will move forward," Dr. Mace said. "It typifies the aims and purposes of the whole RAD program. Local initiative inaugurated the project, and local money was invested in the future of the community. And, Federal agencies helped provide the tools for fusing the project together."

Johnson County issued \$400,000 in public bonds to finance the establishment of the new industrial park, and is committed to an additional investment of \$100,000 to finance access roads and other necessary improvements. Of the \$106,300 from the Federal government, \$60,000 is a loan to be repaid by the local people.

DESIGNATION OF 15 RURAL COUNTIES

Upon recommendation of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Areas Development, 15 additional rural counties were designated last month by the Department of Commerce as eligible to participate in programs of the Area Redevelopment Administration. The counties are:



ARKANSAS: Calhoun, Cleburne, Drew, and Little River.
FLORIDA: Calhoun, Franklin, Liberty, and Walton (except Eglin Air Force Base).
NORTH CAROLINA: Clay.
TENNESSEE: Benton, Bledsoe, Fentress, Grundy, Putnam, and Sequatchie.

Designation of these counties was recommended to assist in rounding out economic areas. This will help the areas in planning a more unified development program.

In these counties USDA will assist with the organization of Rural Areas Development Committees. The committees will be responsible for formulating economic development programs for their areas, and for stimulating specific projects to carry out the programs.

USDA will also assist with the program in the rural areas of 156 other counties designated by the Commerce Department.

GRASSROOTS COMMENTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

Rural Electric Missourian.....president of the Sho-Me Power Corporation called on delegates to that organization's 18th annual meeting, recently to be

aggressive in getting new business in "our fine area." Sho-Me, an REA-financed firm serves 10 rural electric cooperatives, some 5,500 individual consumers and several municipalities.

Wisconsin Agriculturist and Farmer.....it is too early to make any evaluation of the program (RAD) but the fundamental idea of attacking the problems of our poorer communities as a total is very sound. More often than not the problem of distressed agriculture in an area is only a part of the overall distressed economy of the entire community.



Oklahoma Union Farmer.....If the family farm and rural communities are to be preserved for our young people, something must be done to perpetuate that way of life. Rural Areas Development offers that opportunity.

Rural Electrification Magazine.....Rural Areas Development is receiving its share of attention from speakers at this year's NRECA 10 regional meetings.

Nebraska Farmer.....Rural Development is no longer an experiment. It's been tried and it works....so well in fact that the idea is being expanded under the new Rural Areas Development program.

HELPFUL LEAFLETS AVAILABLE -- NOW

The U. S. Department of Commerce, Area Redevelopment Administration has released two interesting and helpful leaflets to those working in Rural Areas Development and related work.

They are: Handbook of Federal aids to Communities. Copies can be secured by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C...Price is 45 cents.

Overall Economic Development Program, What it is, and How to prepare one for your community. Copies can be secured by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. ...Price is 15 cents.

WHY THE PUSH ON RAD

In the words of John Baker, Director of Agricultural Credit Service: "Rural areas development isn't new at all. In a sense it is as old as the Nation. Essentially it consists of expanding economic opportunities. In the process of development, new productive employment opportunities are generated in rural areas. The new part is the renewed vigor with which progress is being pushed.

"The goals of this program are: to create a new climate of hope and progress in each area; to abolish rural poverty; to help bring agriculture, industry, recreation, forestry, and other possibilities together into most productive balance; to make democracy continue to work, here at home in our rural areas for all the world to see," Baker points out.